AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

FIRE

At New-priſon

BY

CLERKENWEL,

WHEREBY

The greateſt part of that Houſe was Burnt down on *Fridvy* Night *May* the *9th.* 1679.

Preſumed on very violent Suſpitions to be ſet on Fire by a Papiſt that was there in Cuſtody, and by that means Eſcaped.

Taken from the Mouth of the Keeper of the ſaid Priſon.

Price Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for L. C. 1679.

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ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

AN ACCOUNT OF FIRE

At New-prison

BY

CLERKENWEL,

WHEREBY

The greatest part of that House was Burnt down on Friday Night May the 9th. 1679.

Presumed on very violent Suspicion to be set on Fire by a Papist that was there in Custody, and by that means Escaped.

Taken from the mouth of the Keeper of the said Prison.

Sixty Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for L. C. 1679.

An Account of the FIRE *at* New-priſon *by* Clerkenwel ; *whereby the greateſt part of that Houſe was Burnt down on* Friday *Night* May *the* 9th. 1679.

WE are ſufficiently ſenſible of the Miſchiefs of Jeſuitical Villains ; ſixty ſix we hope is not yet, nor ever will be forgot, nor the grand Contrivances or petty Inſtruments of that Curſed Conflagration ; Nor have we wanted ſeveral inſtances ſince of their malice. The ſame men that firſt Burnt out Houſes, would quickly Burn our Bodies ; and had they power would no doubt repeat all the Butcheries of the

Marian days. We ſhall not mention *Southwark*, *Wapping*, &c. Though the Promoters of the Miſchiefs there are not unknown: However ſince the Burning of this Priſon which is juſt now happened, is ſo remarkable in the Town, it will not be inconvenient to give the World a perfect Narrative thereof, to pevent falſe reports and miſrepreſentations. On *Friday* the 9th. of *May*, Mr. *Green* the Keeper of the ſaid *New-priſon* of *Clerkenwell* (a very Civil and Careful perſon) being abroad upon his Occaſions, came home about Eleven of the Clock at Night; and (according to his uſual manner) did by himſelf take a Pipe of Tobacco, and then lookt very diligently, (as he always uſed to do,) about the Houſe; and found every thing ſafe, and no Candle or Light that he could perceive, beſides what he had with him: It being juſt after the Seſſions had Diſcharged moſt of the Maleſactors, there were but few in Cuſtody, but amongſt the reſt one Mr. *Woodgar* a Notorious Papiſt, ſome ſay a Prieſt, but that is uncertain: He

was

was Lodged by himself up one pair of Stairs; and 'tis not said there were any Suspitious persons in the House, but only common Offenders which by the manner of the thing would no ways be supposed to to be concerned in contriving the Fire. Mr. *Green* went to his Bed much about Twelve of the Clock at Night, or some small time before, but had not lain above half an hour, before a Fellow that was a Turn-key to the House, came to the door of his Chamber, and cry'd out *Lord! Master the Prison is on Fire.* This much surprizing and affrighting him, he started out of his Bed and run to the door, but did not presently open it; but called the man, desiring him to run with all speed to call the Watch, and get help as well to quench it, as to secure the Prisoners: The man went away, but what became of him is not known, for he hath not since been seen or heard of thereabouts.

Nor is the said Mr. *Woodgar* the Papist to be found, though Mr. *Green* does affirm

that

that according to the best of his apprehension, he does believe the Fire was begun in his Chamber; and there is a violent suspition that it might be by Confederacy betwixt him and the said Turnkey, and that they may be gone away together; or otherwise that they must be both Consumed in the Flames, which is not very probable, because the Turnkey being up and sensible of the Fire, it is not reasonable to think he would expose himself to danger; nor did he go as he was ordered to call the Watch.

But Mr. *Green* having hastily got on his Cloaths went down, and found the House on Fire to that degree as not to be Extinguisht till most of it was destroyed. In that hurry and confusion the rest of the Prisoners were let out to preserve their Lives from the Fire, and so got away, there being no assistance ready to secure them; but were all seen except the Papist, who 'tis supposed was gone before.

The Prison is generally Burnt down, but the Corporation, or house usually called

led *New-Bridewel* adjoyning thereunto was preſerved ſafe and without damage.

This what account we can get or obtain of this matter, and what Judgment is to be made of the ſame, is left to the Diſquiſition of Authority, and Diſcretion of the Reader.

Thoſe that are profeſt *Incendiaries of Kingdoms*, 'tis not to be doubted but will be apt enough to Fire Houſes, eſpecially when tempted by the advantage of gaining Liberty, and avoiding Juſtice by ſuch horrid practices; and it will be the duty of all perſons that have ſuch kind of people committed to their Cuſtody, to take more eſpecial care from this example to ſecure themſelves, and diſable their Priſoners of that ſtamp, from all opportunities of doing ſuch miſchiefs.

FINIS.